



MEETING SUMMARY
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
LOWER EAST COAST WATER SUPPLY PLAN (LEC Plan)
TECHNICAL ISSUES WORKING GROUP
Broward County Office of Environmental Services Training Room
2555 West Copans Road, Pompano Beach, FL
Monday August 23, 2004
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm

Attendees:

WRAC Members:

Walter Carson

WRAC Alternates:

Fred Rapach

Patti Webster

Interested Parties:

Liz Abbott

Mark Abbott

Jeff An

Juliana Badulescu

Mike Bailey

Kara Baxter

Kristin Bennett

Randolph Brown

Dean Du

Darrell Dunn

Rebecca Elliott

Laura Feakes

Mick Finn

Dora Florindo

Chuck Flynn

Donna Fries

Jamie Furgang

Lorraine Guise

George Haughney

Jennifer Jurado

Skip Keibler

Steve Lamb

Maria Loucraft-Manzano

Linda McCarthy

Natalie Mealey

Wayne Miller

Lyle Munce

Ron Nunes

Albert Perez

Irene Quincey

Roy Reynolds

Rudy Rudolph

Brian Shields

Maurice Tobon

Patti Webster

SFWMD Staff:

Scott Burns

Linda Hoppes

Jim Jackson

Michael Jackson

Carlyn Kowalsky

John Mulliken

Michelle Percy

Rick Smith

Carl Woehlcke

1. Introductions by Carlyn Kowalsky, Director, Water Supply Department, SFWMD.

Meeting called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Ms. Kowalsky. She thanked Roy Reynolds, Broward County, for inviting the group to meet in their facility. As the new Water Supply Department Director, Ms. Kowalsky provided background information on both her

professional and water resources experience. A review of the upcoming agenda was provided. She asked for ideas and input from all the stakeholders and she looks forward to working with the group.

Introductions and affiliation by all attendees was made.

2. LEC Plan (Plan) Update.

Mr. Jackson stated that SFWMD staff had organized the questions concerning the LEC Plan Update content provided by Broward County at the last workshop in the following five categories for discussion at this meeting.

- General Process for Development
- Demand Projections
- Constraints on the Regional System and Alternative Approaches
- Saltwater Intrusion and Water Shortage
- Integration of Local and Regional Projects

Jim Jackson presented information on the steps in the update via a handout entitled "LEC Water Supply Plan Update Steps". *A copy of the presentation is available on the District's website and is made a part of the Minutes of this meeting.* This showed where in the process of preparing the update many of the issues would be addressed.

Topics discussed were: Preparation Work; Baseline Projections and Evaluations; Alternatives Formulation and Evaluation; Recommendations, Plan Implementation and Funding Strategy, Document Production, Acceptance by Governing Board, Review by DEP and Plan Implementation.

Input from Broward County and SFWMD were merged. Roy Reynolds, Broward County, provided a handout of questions and they were reviewed. *A copy of the handout is available and made a part of the Minutes of this meeting.*

→ General Process for Development

Mr. Reynolds read the four questions and stakeholders asked further questions and asked for clarification. Scott Burns, Director, Regulatory Division, SFWMD, provided information on the regulatory process in the Plan. CERP CUP Consistency Workshop is where the guidelines were established. It is important that the utilities review the questionnaires carefully and provide their input to SFWMD staff. When modeling runs are being done, that is the time to look at this matter and that is the proper time to look at the linkages. The determination on whether a request should be a "rule" or a "guideline" must be determined. The context of the Plan was discussed and the ability to be flexible on granting permits. The water resource constraints were identified.

Mr. Jackson explained that CERP facilities were in the baseline. A preliminary reservation of water and regional and sub-regional solutions on reservations was discussed. The different processes for model runs were discussed. Baseline definitions and incorporation of CERP projects were topics of dialogue. John Mulliken, Deputy Director, Water Supply Department, SFWMD, provided information on the CERP processes that will come on line and said requests from stakeholders are needed. Solutions that would benefit multiple parties need to be put on the table. The timing of alternatives under the MFL rules and allocation of water was explained by Mr. Burns. The outlook for the next five years for initial reservations and project reservations for the LEC was provided. It is important that all parties are talking the same language and understand the process on project reservations.

→ Demand Projections

Mr. Reynolds spoke on constraints on supply and demand and determination on how they come together. A way to look at the "... most amount of water available" and with the least constraints was reviewed. The availability of water is so important to everyone and a look at the demands both high and low needs to be done. Formulation and evaluation needs to be looked at by all sides. A range of alternatives will be looked at by staff and they will also conduct sensitivity analysis on certain issues. What effects having water available is important to review. Information was provided on "pots of water" that are currently being identified, and the process in the State's consumptive use process; and the Federal process for the setting aside as a reservation of water for CERP projects.

The CERP process and non-CERP process for water reservations were reviewed. Initial reservations in the LEC Plan were explained by Mr. Burns. Rule development for the Loxahatchee has been authorized and there will be continuing work on these plans. Concern was expressed on how these two will be working together. Mr. Mulliken said the intent is to set the reservations and this subject will be discussed at the September 2, 2004 Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) meeting. Questions were asked on reserving water. Mr. Burns continued with information on reserving water that is not beneficial to the environment that could be sent to other areas for future growth, etc. Concepts such as this are more broad than the focus of the WRAC LEC workshops.

Broward County is looking at alternatives for water. Supplemental water needs were discussed and they will be incorporated into the Plan.

Ms. Kowalsky returned the focus of the meeting back to the agenda concerning *Demand Projections*. Mr. Reynolds spoke on "areas of extreme" where water availability under certain conditions could occur. An answer on "regional availability" is imperative. Stakeholder commented that whatever the number is today should be the baseline and in the future the "best guess" is all that can be achieved now. On the projections of water availability, it could increase or decrease and that would affect the amount of water that would be available. There is a need to come up with

some type of “availability fund”. A series of performance measures will be used to determine the availability of water in the planning process. This will end up with the “most probable number” and there will be a range of alternatives to choose from.

Demand projections will try to use the same set of assumptions. Mr. Jackson provided information on the SFWMD website and introduced Carl Woehlcke, Lead Economist, Water Supply Department, SFWMD. The information on the website is very important and will be used in preparing this Plan. Modeling that will be specific to LEC will begin later, but currently the modeling for CERP is being used as a tool for identifying alternatives to be analyzed.

Mr. Burns spoke of well pumping and the incorporation of information on wells. Both hard constraints and soft constraints were discussed. Input on “where are you going to pump the water”, “transfer water back and forth”, “backpumping”, and other criteria were suggested as a way to get consistent numbers. A question on diversion and impoundment permits was asked and Mr. Woehlcke and Mr. Burns provided information on the process.

→ Constraints on the Regional System and Alternative Approaches

A stakeholder asked if there was a plan to model the Floridan for the LEC and Mr. Mulliken said there is currently not a plan to model this area. Ms. Kowalsky said that even if there is not a detailed model available, some information should be available. Several stakeholders provided information on the aquifer models and their affects. It was proposed that analytical techniques could be used to simulate model information.

Mr. Reynolds addressed the information he thought should be listed in the analysis – *Acceptable alternative water supply methods and other offsets including: cost per unit of water produced; requirements to implement; time frame for implementing, impediments to implementation, and the anticipated credit for various water conservation, aquifer recharge and alternative water resource strategies.* Mr. Burns provided information on different situations and the regulatory constraints between the geographical areas. These issues of reuse need to be discussed in the process. The cost is very important to include in the analysis.

Input on water resource development (regional) and water supply development (local) was provided by a representative of Broward County. Participation and credits to local governmental agencies is a good recommendation that should be in the Plan. This is an important point. Clarification of the terms (water resource development / water supply development) needs to be made clear in the Plan. Water supply development is sometimes beyond local governmental and needs to be addressed in the Plan.

→ Saltwater Intrusion and Water Shortage.

Darrell Dunn commented that in the last few years, additional information has become available and this data should be included in the Plan. Saltwater intrusion is reversible. Opportunities to deliberately reverse this action should be investigated. There may be harmless ways to mix freshwater and saltwater and this should be looked at closely. Mr. Burns spoke on the water shortage rule and he said there is a lot of discussion going on statewide. The Governing Board has asked staff to look at this rule. That deals directly with the subject of capturing additional water and gathering the knowledge of saltwater intrusion reversibility.

→ Integration of Local and Regional Projects

Request made by stakeholder that the LEC update include review of local and regional plans to improve surface water management through storage, recharge to Biscayne Aquifer, and hydroperiods of isolated wetlands. An overview of the local water resource planning initiatives and the extent these programs will be integrated into the LEC update.

3. Schedule for Next Meeting of Technical Issues Working Group.

Mr. Mulliken said on the 30th of August, there will be a full Lower East Coast Water Supply Plan in the same location.

Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator, said the WRAC meeting will be held on September 2, 2004 in West Palm Beach. Mr. Mulliken urged stakeholders to provide input at the WRAC meeting.

Mr. Jackson provided information upcoming LEC meetings -- September 22nd in Miami and October 27th at a location to be determined. (Note: September 22nd meeting subsequently cancelled.)

Ms. Kowalsky asked if there were any further comments. Staff will work on the questions and comments made by the stakeholders today. Questions that were raised will be incorporated into the process for the LEC Plan. Mr. Burns said that as the process moves along, the issues will be addressed and agreement will be reached by all interested parties.

Mr. Reynolds expressed his concern on models and modeling. There are so many variables in dealing with this matter. Mr. Burns said that a definition of exactly how this will be done (and specifically what will be asked of the models) will be given to stakeholders and approval will be requested of that specific definition. Mr. Reynolds said the decisions should be made early on and Mr. Burns said this will be done. Modelers should not be sent off in several different directions, so a focus must be made on the direction.

4. Adjournment at 3:50 p.m.

Paula Moree
Staff Business Operations Analyst
Governing Board and Executive Services
SFWMD
